

**Human Services Committee
March 12, 2015
Senate Bill 1044 – Support**

Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, and members of the Human Services Committee:

I am so excited about Senate Bill 1044 that I can hardly contain myself. Finally someone has made the connection between huge corporate profits and paying hard working people dirt wages. Why should middle class America be subsidizing large corporations that don't pay their fair share?

It's one thing for small businesses to pay minimum wage when they themselves are struggling to stay afloat. But these big guys who pay their CEOs billions of dollars and their shareholders big dividends? They have no excuse. They pay their managers rotten salaries and then require lots more than 40 hours of work per week. The rest of the staff is all part-time so they don't have to pay benefits, and they get a whole \$9.10 per hour after traveling an hour on the bus to get to work, after dropping their child off at daycare, after getting all the kids dressed and ready to go out the door. It makes me tired just to write these sentences. And we wonder, "What has happened to the American family?"

So thanks to whoever thought up the brave concept of charging a fee to these highly profitable big box stores and fast food restaurants when they don't pay their workers enough to live on. But what I like best about SB1044 is that the money would help pay for the support services that these workers need to keep their jobs. Brilliant! Maybe my job will improve as a result of this too. If the employer does not pay at least \$15 per hour, then ZAP, the State takes a portion of their profits to reimburse the costs of health care and child care for them.

I wholly support SB1044. It's right and it's fair.

Carmen Cela
Hartford, CT
860-296-7494